DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Markose, *puduval* lands have been set apart solely for the depressed classes for registry. Twenty per cent. of the disafforested swampy areas are reserved for the depressed classes; and, in occasional cases, lands outside these areas are given to them. The main point is to ask for lands which are available and not for lands which it is impossible to give. The latter happens very often.

The need for a full-time Protector of Depressed Classes has been recognised; but, the scheme has to lie over because of the present financial stringency.

The depressed classes are given appointments in the several departments; and the heads of departments, have been told that, when qualified hands apply, available places must be given to them.

167. Muslims and public service.

MR. K. A. HYDROSE (*Municipal Council, Alwaye*) said that the cry for representation of Muslims in the public service was not merely for the sake of earning their livelihood but also for the sake of occupying positions of trust and responsibility and thereby exercising their rights of citizenship. There were rich merchants and industrialists and land-owners among the Muslims. Many of them paid a large amount of income tax also. But the members of the community were not duly represented in service. The Government should remove this disability by adopting the necessary measures at an early date. In particular the member requested that in the vacancies of District Judges occurring in the near future Muslims might be appointed. There were several cases involving questions of Mahomedan law which required an intimate knowledge of the *Koran*. Such cases were being disposed of by those who had no such knowledge. Hence the need for Muslim Judges.

Muslims should also be appointed in all ranks in the Secretariat This was necessary because it was the clerks of the Secretariat and the Account Office who were recruited as Magistrates who in their turn were promoted as Tahsildars, Division Assistants and Peishkars. There was only one Muslim in the above cadres as an acting Tahsildar. The policy of making appointments in the Secretariat should be modified accordingly. Further, several questions affecting the Muslim community were coming up for decision in the Secretariat. For a proper understanding of these questions and their decision, a Muslim Officer was necessary. A Muslim should therefore be appointed in the higher ranks of the Secretariat.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Hydrose, when the vacancy of a District Judge occurs, the claims of your community will be considered if a qualified hand is available.

Muslims are being appointed in all departments and also in the Secretariat. They have equal opportunities with the members of other communities for being appointed to any vacancy.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly